

CLAIMS

1. A method for removing an ice blockage from a throttle body comprising heating an electric motor in a throttle body to melt the ice blockage.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising rotating the throttle blade to contact the ice blockage.

3. The method of Claim 1 further comprising determining if an ice blockage is in the throttle body.

4. A throttle body for use in a vehicle with an internal combustion engine comprising:

a throttle plate;

an electric motor operatively coupled to said throttle plate;

5 wherein upon detection of an ice blockage said electric motor is heated to melt said ice blockage.

5. The throttle body of Claim 4 wherein said electric motor is mounted to the underside of the throttle body.

6. The throttle body of Claim 4 wherein said electric motor is a DC motor.

7. The throttle body of Claim 4 wherein said DC motor includes a permanent magnet field in the stator.

8. The throttle body of Claim 4 wherein said electric motor is a stepper motor.

9. A method of removing ice from a throttle body in a vehicle comprising:
- actuating a throttle plate in the throttle body to impact the ice; and
 - heating an electric motor coupled to said throttle plate to heat the
- 5 throttle body and melt the ice.

10. A method of removing ice from a throttle body in a vehicle comprising actuating a throttle plate in the throttle body to impact the ice.